

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6494

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

EUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1881

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH DEPUTIES TO VISIT LIBYA

1. FONMIN FITZGERALD HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A GROUP OF 15 IRISH DEPUTIES, REPRESENTING ALL THREE PARTIES IN DAIL, WILL VISIT LIBYA SHORTLY AT INVITATION OF LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. FONOFF IS OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO DOWNPLAY VISIT AND HAS DESCRIBED IT AS A PARLIAMENTARY JAUNT ARRANGED AS FOLLOW-UP TO EURO/ARAB PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN DAMASCUS LAST SEPTEMBER. SO FAR, LABOR DEPUTY FRANK CLUSKEY HAS BEEN SPEAKING FOR GOVERNMENT DELEGATION IN GROUP. HE HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IRISH WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS TO LIBYAN LEADERS AS WELL AS LISTENING TO THEM.

2. COMMENT: BACKGROUND FOR THIS VISIT IS EMBARRASSING FOR GOI. COLONEL QADHAFI SEEMS TO HAVE EXPRESSED SOME AFFECTION FOR THE IRISH OVER PAST FEW YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY, IRISH BELIEVE THAT OBJECT OF HIS BENEVOLENCE HAS BEEN THE PROVISIONAL IRA, WHICH IS AS POPULAR HERE AS THE PLO IN NEW YORK. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, IRISH HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WERE MAKING AN EFFORT TO STRAIGHTEN OUT QADHAFI, BUT THAT THEY HAD FOUND HIS DIPLOMATS MASSIVELY UNINFORMED. IT IS CERTAINLY NO COINCIDENCE THAT IRELAND HAS ESTABLISHED NON-RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC TIES TO MOST ARAB COUNTRIES OVER PAST FEW

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MONTHS, OMITTING LIBYA.

3. PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED LIBYAN OFFERS TO GIVE IRELAND OIL AND/OR MONEY. CHANNELS USED FOR "OFFERS," HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN MORE PICTURESQUE THAN CREDIBLE. LATEST CHANNEL WAS AN ECCENTRIC LEFT-WING DEPUTY WHO SAID HE HAD A MYSTERIOUS CONTACT IN LYBYA. GOI DOES NOT LIKE THIS KIND OF THING,BUT IT DOES NEED OIL AND MONEY. WE ASSUME DELEGATION WILL BE LISTENING FOR SERIOUS OFFERS. RENDAHL

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